

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on February 24, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 9, 11, 12, and 71 are amended, and claims 76-91 are added; as a result, claims 1, 3-12, 64, 65, 68, 71, and 76-91 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-12, 64, 65, 68, and 71 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook et al. (U.S. 5,457,345) and in further view of Thomas (U.S. 4,661,375) and Strube et al. (U.S. 4,650,548).

Independent claims 1, 9, 11, 12, and 71 are amended. The elements recited in the amended claims 1, 9, 11, 12, and 71 are supported by FIG. 4(A) through FIG. 4(P) of the drawings. As amended, claim 1 recites elements that are not found in Cook et al., Thomas, and Strube et al. For example, in claim 1, the element “depositing solder on the exposed portion of the metal contact pad after the mask is removed such that the depositing solder is performed without using the mask” is not found in Cook et al., Thomas, and Strube et al. Since not all of the elements in claim 1 are found in Cook et al., Thomas, and Strube et al. Claim 1 is patentable over Cook et al., Thomas, and Strube et al. Claims 9, 11, 12, and 71 recite elements similar to the elements of claim 1. Thus, claims 9, 11, 12, and 71 also recite elements that are not found in Cook et al., Thomas, and Strube et al. Therefore, claims 9, 11, 12, and 71 are also patentable over Cook et al., Thomas, and Strube et al. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 9, 11, 12, and 71 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1, 9, 11, 12, and 71 and their dependent claims (3-8, 10, 64, 65, and 68) be allowed.

New Claims

Claims 76-91 are added. New claims 76-91 read on the elected invention and are supported by FIG. (A) through FIG. 4(P) of the drawings. Thus, no new matter is introduced. New claims 76-91 recite elements that are not found in Cook et al., Thomas, and Strube et al.

Thus, new claims 76-91 are patentable over Cook et al., Thomas, and Strube et al. Accordingly, Applicant requests that new claims 76-91 be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative 612-373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

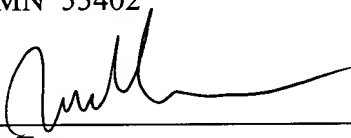
Respectfully submitted,

PAUL A. FARRAR

By his Representatives,

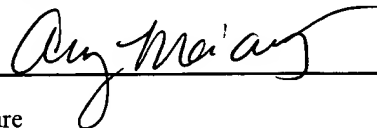
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Amy Moriarty
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